GUACANAGARI PONTIAC BLACK HAWK
MONTEZUMA CAPTAIN PIPE KEOKUK
GUATIMOTZIN LOGAN SACAGAWEA
POWHATAN CORNPLANTER BENITO JUAREZ
POCAHONTAS JOSEPH BRANT MANGUS
SAMOSET RED JACKET COLORADAS
MASSASOIT LITTLE TURTLE LITTLE CROW
KING PHILIP TECUMSEH SITTING BULL
UNCAS OSCEOLA CHIEF JOSEPH
TEDYUSKUNG SEQUOYA GERONIMO
SHABONEE

TO PERPETUATE THE HISTORY
AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE
PEOPLE REPRESENTED BY THE
ABOVE CHIEFS AND WISE MEN
THIS COLLECTION HAS BEEN
GATHERED BY THEIR FRIEND

EDWARD EVERETT AYER

AND PRESENTED BY HIM
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1911

AN

ACCOUNT

OF

LOUISIANA,

LAID BEFORE

CONGRESS

BY DIRECTION OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

NOVEMBER 14, 1803:

COMPRISING

An account of its boundaries, hiſtory, cities, towns, and ſettlements; of the origin, number and ſtrength of the inhabitants; of its rivers, canals, mountains, minerals, and productions of ſoil: of the different tribes of Indians, and the number of their warriors; and of its navigation and laws under the Spaniſh government, &c. &c.

PROVIDENCE:
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ACCOUNT

OF

LOUISIANA.

The object of the following pages is to consolidate the information respecting the present state of Louisiana, furnished to the Executive by several individuals among the best informed upon that subject.

OF the province of Louisiana no general map, sufficiently correct to be depended upon, has been published, nor has any yet been procured from a private source. It is indeed probable, that surveys have never been made upon so extensive a scale as to afford the means of laying down the various regions of a country, which, in some of its parts, appears to have been but imperfectly explored.

BOUNDARIES.

THE precise boundaries of Louisiana, westwardly of the Mississippi, though very extensive, are at present involved in some obscurity. Data are equally wanting to as-

ſign with preciſion its northern extent. From the ſource of the Miſſiſippi, it is bounded eaſtwardly by the middle of the channel of that river to the 31ſt degree of latitude: thence, it is aſſerted upon very ſtrong grounds, that according to its limits, when formerly poſſeſſed by France, it ſtretches to the eaſt, as far, at leaſt, as the river Perdido, which runs into the bay of Mexico, eaſtward of the river Mobile.

It may be conſiſtent, with the view of theſe notes, to remark, that Louiſiana, including the Mobile ſettlements, was diſcovered and peopled by the French, whoſe monarchs made ſeveral grants of its trade, in particular to Mr. Croſat in 1712, and ſome years afterwards with his acquieſcence, to the well known company projected by Mr. Law. This company was relinquiſhed in the year 1731. By a ſecret convention of the 3d November, 1762, the French government ceded ſo much of the province as lies beyond the Miſſiſippi, as well as the iſland of New Orleans, to Spain, and, by the treaty of peace which followed in 1763, the whole territory of France and Spain eaſtward of the middle of the Miſſiſippi to the Iberville, thence through the middle of that river, and the lakes Maurepas and Pon-

chartrain to the sea, was ceded to Great Britain. Spain having conquered the Floridas from Great-Britain during our revolutionary war, they were confirmed to her by the treaty of peace of 1783. By the treaty of St. Ildefonso, of the 1st of October, 1800, his catholic majesty promises and engages on his part to cede back to the French republic, six months after the full and entire execution of the conditions and stipulations therein contained, relative to the duke of Parma, "the colony or province of Louisiana, with the same extent that it actually has in the hands of Spain, that it had when France possessed it, and such as it ought to be after the treaties subsequently entered into between Spain and other states." This treaty was confirmed and enforced by that of Madrid, of the 21st March, 1801. From France it passed to us by the treaty of the 30th of April last, with a reference to the above clause, as descriptive of the limits ceded.

DIVISIONS OF THE PROVINCE.

The province as held by Spain, including a part of West Florida, is laid off into the following principal divisions: Mobile, from Balisle to the city, New-Orleans and the country on both sides of lake Ponchar-

train, first and second German coasts, Catahanose, Fourche, Venezuela, Iberville, Galvez-Town, Baton-Rouge, Pointe Coupee, Atacapas, Opeloulas, Ouachita, Avoyelles, Rapide, Natchitoches, Arkansas and the Illinois.

In the Illinois there are commandants, at New-Madrid, St. Genevieve, New-Bourbon, St. Charles and St. Andrews, all subordinate to the commandant general.

Baton Rouge having been made a government, subsequently to the treaty of limits, &c. with Spain, the posts of Manchac and Thompson's creek, or Feliciana, were added to it.

Chapitoulas has sometimes been regarded as a separate command, but is now included within the jurisdiction of the city. The lower part of the river has likewise had occasionally a separate commandant.

Many of the present establishments are separated from each other by immense and trackless deserts, having no communication with each other by land, except now and then a solitary instance of its being attempted by hunters, who have to swim rivers, expose themselves to the inclemency of the weather, and carry their provisions on their back for a time proportioned to the length

of their journey. This is particularly the case on the west of the Missisippi, where the communication is only kept up by water, between the capital and the distant settlements; three months being required to convey intelligence from the one to the other by the Missisippi. The usual distance accomplished by a boat in ascending, is five leagues per day. The rapidity of the current, in the spring season especially, when the waters of all the rivers are high, facilitates the descent, so that the same voyage by water, which requires three or four months to perform from the capital, may be made to it in from twelve to sixteen days. The principal settlements in Louisiana are on the Missisippi, which begins to be cultivated about twenty leagues from the sea, where the plantations are yet thin, and owned by the poorest people. Ascending you see them improve on each side, till you reach the city, which is situated on the East bank, on a bend of the river, 35 leagues from the sea.

CHAPITOULAS, FIRST & SECOND GERMAN COASTS, CATAHANOSE, FOURCHE AND IBERVILLE.

The best and most improved are above the city, and comprehend what is there known by the Paroisse de Chapitoulas,

Premier and Second Cote des Allemands, and extend 16 leagues.

ABOVE this begins the parish of Catahanoſe, or firſt Acadian ſettlement, extending eight leagues on the river. Adjoining it and ſtill aſcending is the ſecond Acadian ſettlement or pariſh of the Fourche, which extends about ſix leagues. The pariſh of Iberville then commences, and is bounded on the eaſt ſide by the river of the ſame name, which though dry a great part of the year, yet, when the Miſſiſippi is raiſed, it communicates with the lakes Maurepas and Ponchartrain, and through them with the ſea, and thus forms what is called the iſland of New-Orleans. Except on the point juſt below the Iberville, the country from New-Orleans is ſettled the whole way along the river, and preſents a ſcene of interrupted plantations in ſight of each other, whoſe fronts to the Miſſiſippi are all cleared, and occupy on that river from 5 to 25 acres with a depth of 40; ſo that a plantation of 5 acres in front contains 200. A few ſugar plantations are formed in the pariſh of Catahanoſe, but the remainder is devoted to cotton and proviſions, and the whole is an excellent ſoil incapable of being exhauſted. The plantations are but one deep on the iſland

of New-Orleans, and on the oppoſite ſide of the river as far as the mouth of the Iberville, which is 35 leagues above New-Orleans.

BAYOU DE LA FOURCHE—ATACAPAS, AND OPELOUSAS.

About 25 leagues from the laſt mentioned place on the weſt ſide of the Miſſiſippi, the creek or Bayou of the Fourche, called in old maps La Riviere des Chitamaches, flows from the Miſſiſippi, and communicates with the ſea to the weſt of the Baliſe. The entrance of the Miſſiſippi is navigable only at high water, but will then admit of craft of from 60 to 70 tons burthen. On both banks of this creek are ſettlements, one plantation deep, for near 15 leagues, and they are divided into two pariſhes. The ſettlers are numerous, though poor, and the culture is univerſally cotton. On all creeks making from the Miſſiſippi, the ſoil is the ſame as on the bank of the river, and the border is the higheſt part of it, from whence it deſcends gradually to the ſwamp. In no place on the low lands is there depth more than ſuffices for one plantation, before you come to the low grounds incapable of cultivation. This creek affords one of the communications to the two populous and rich ſettlements of Atacapas and Opelouſas

formed on and near the ſmall rivers Teche and Vermillon which flow into the bay of Mexico. But the principal and ſwifteſt communication is by the Bayou or creek of Plaquemines, whoſe entrance into the Miſſiſippi is ſeven leagues higher up on the ſame ſide, and 32 above New-Orleans. Theſe ſettlements abound in cattle and horſes, have a large quantity of good land in their vicinity, and may be made of great importance. A part of their produce is ſent by ſea to New-Orleans, but the greater part is carried in batteaux by the creeks above mentioned.

BATON ROUGE AND ITS DEPENDENCIES.

Immediately above the Iberville, and on both ſides of the Miſſiſippi, lies the pariſh of Manchac, which extends 4 leagues on the river, and is well cultivated. Above it commences the ſettlement of Baton Rouge, extending about 9 leagues. It is remarkable as being the firſt place, where the high land is contiguous to the river, and here it forms a bluff from 30 to 40 feet above the greateſt riſe of the river. Here the ſettlements extend a conſiderable way back on the eaſt ſide; and this pariſh has that of Thompſon's creek and Bayou Sara ſubordinate to it. The mouth of the firſt

of theſe creeks is about 49 leagues from New-Orleans, and that of the latter 2 or 3 leagues higher up. They run from north-eaſt to ſouth-weſt, and their head waters are north of the 31ſt degree of latitude. Their banks have the beſt ſoil, and the greateſt number of good cotton plantations of any part of Louiſiana, and are allowed to be the garden of it.

POINTE COUPEE AND FAUSEE RIVIERE.

Above Baton Rouge, at the diſtance of 50 leagues from New-Orleans, and on the weſt ſide of the Miſſiſippi is Pointe Coupee, a populous and rich ſettlement, extending 8 leagues along the river. Its produce is cotton. Behind it, on an old bed of the river, now a lake, whoſe outlets are cloſed up, is the ſettlement of Fauſſe Riviere, which is well cultivated.

In the ſpace now deſcribed from the ſea as high as and including the laſt mentioned ſettlement, are contained three fourths of the population, and ſeven eighths of the riches of Louiſiana.

From the ſettlement of Pointe Coupee on the Miſſiſippi to Cape Girardeau above the mouth of the Ohio, there is no land on the weſt ſide, that is not overflowed in the ſpring to the diſtance of 8 or 10 leagues

from the river with from 2 to 12 feet of water, except a small spot near New Madrid; so that in the whole extent there is no possibility of forming a considerable settlement contiguous to the river on that side. The eastern bank has in this respect a decided advantage over the western, as there are on it many situations which effectually command the river.

RED RIVER AND ITS SETTLEMENTS.

On the west side of the Mississippi, 70 leagues from New-Orleans, is the mouth of the Red river, on whose banks and vicinity are the settlements of Rapide, Avoyelles and Natchitoches, all of them thriving and populous. The latter is situate 75 leagues up the Red River. On the north side of the Red River, a few leagues from its junction with the Mississippi, is the Black River, on one of whose branches, a considerable way up, is the infant settlement of Ouachita, which from the richness of the soil may be made a place of importance. Cotton is the chief produce of these settlements, but they have likewise a considerable Indian trade. The River Rouge is used to communicate with the frontiers of New-Mexico.

CONCORD, ARKANSAS, ST. CHARLES AND ST. ANDREW, &c.

THERE is no other settlement on the Mississippi except the small one called Concord, opposite to the Natches, till you come to the Arkansas River, whose mouth is 250 leagues above New Orleans.

HERE there are but a few families, who are more attached to the Indian trade (by which chiefly they live) than to cultivation. There is no settlement from this place to New-Madrid, which is itself inconsiderable. Ascending the river you come to Cape Girardeau, St. Genevieve and St. Louis, where, though the inhabitants are numerous, they raise little for exportation, and content themselves with trading with the Indians and working a few lead mines. This country is very fertile, especially on the banks of the Missouri, where there have been formed two settlements, called St. Charles and St. Andrew, mostly by emigrants from Kentucky. The peltry procured in the Illinois is the best sent to the Atlantic market; and the quantity is very considerable. Lead is to be had with ease, and in such quantities as to supply all Europe, if the population were sufficient to work the numerous mines to be found within two or

three feet from the surface in various parts of the country. The settlements about the Illinois were first made by the Canadians, and their inhabitants still resemble them in their aversion to labor, and love of a wandering life. They contain but few negroes, compared to the number of the whites; and it may be taken for a general rule, that in proportion to the distance from the capital, the number of blacks diminish below that of the whites; the former abounding most on the rich plantations in its vicinity.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF UPPER LOUISIANA.

When compared with the Indiana territory, the face of the country in Upper Louisiana is rather more broken, though the soil is equally fertile. It is a fact not to be contested, that the west side of the river possesses some advantages, not generally incident to those regions. It is elevated and healthy, and well watered with a variety of large rapid streams, calculated for mills and other water works. From Cape Girardeau, above the mouth of the Ohio, to the Missouri, the land on the east side of the Mississippi is low and flat, and occasionally exposed to inundations; that on the Louisiana side, contiguous to the river, is

generally much higher, and in many places very rocky on the ſhore. Some of the heights exhibit a ſcene truly pictureſque. They riſe to a height of at leaſt 300 feet, faced with perpendicular *lime and free ſtone*, carved into various ſhapes and figures by the hand of nature, and afford the appearance of a multitude of antique towers. From the tops of theſe elevations, the land gradually ſlopes back from the river, without gravel or rock, and is covered with valuable timber. It may be ſaid with truth that for fertility of ſoil, no part of the world exceeds the borders of the Miſſiſippi; the land yields an abundance of all the neceſſaries of life, and almoſt ſpontaneouſly; very little labor being required in the cultivation of the earth. That part of Upper Louiſiana, which borders on New Mexico, is one immenſe *prairie*; it produces nothing but graſs; it is filled with buffalo, deer, and other kinds of game; the land is repreſented as too rich for the growth of foreſt trees.

It is pretended that Upper Louiſiana contains in its bowels many ſilver and copper mines, and various ſpecimens of both are exhibited. Several trials have been made to aſcertain the fact; but the want of ſkill

in the artists has hitherto left the subject undecided.

The salt works are also pretty numerous: some belong to individuals; others to the public. They already yield an abundant supply for the consumption of the country; and if properly managed, might become an article of more general exportation. The usual price per bushel is 150 cents, in *cash*, at the works. This price will be still lower as soon as the manufacture of the salt is assisted by the government, or patronized by men who have large capitals to employ in the business. One extraordinary fact related to salt must not be omitted. There is said to be 900 miles up the Missouri, and not far from that river, *a Salt Mountain!* The existence of such a mountain might well be questioned, were it not for the testimony of several respectable and enterprising traders who have visited it, and who have exhibited several bushels of the salt to the curiosity of the people of St. Louis, where some of it still remains. A specimen of the salt has been sent to Marietta. This mountain is said to be 180 miles long, and 45 miles with, composed of solid rock salt without any trees, or even shrubs on it. Salt springs are very numerous beneath

the surface of this mountain, and they flow through the fissures and cavities of it. Caves of salt-petre are found in Upper Louisiana, though at some distance from the settlements. Four men on a trading voyage lately discovered one, several hundred miles up the Missouri. They spent 5 or 6 weeks in the manufacture of this article, and returned to St. Louis with 400 weight of it. It proved to be good and they sold it for a high price.

THE geography of the Mississippi and Missouri, and their contiguity, for a great length of way, are but little known. The traders assert, that 100 miles above their junction, a man may walk from one to the other in a day; and it is also asserted, that 700 miles still higher up, the portage may be crossed in four or five days. This portage is frequented by traders, who carry on a considerable trade with some of the Missouri Indians; their general route is through Green Bay, which is an arm of Lake Michigan; they then pass into a small lake connected with it, and which communicates with the Fox River; they then cross over a short portage into the Ouisconsing River, which unites with the Mississippi some distance below the falls of St. Anthony. It

is alſo ſaid, that the traders communicate with the Miſſiſippi above theſe falls, through Lake Superior—but their trade in that quarter is much leſs conſiderable.

CANAL OF CARONDELET.

Behind New-Orleans is a canal about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, which communicates with a creek called the Bayou St. Jean, flowing into Lake Ponchartrain. At the mouth of it, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ leagues from the city is a ſmall fort called St. Jean, which commands the entrance from the lake. By this creek the communication is kept up through the lake and the Rigolets to Mobile and the ſettlements in Weſt-Florida. Craft drawing from 6 to 8 feet water can navigate to the mouth of the creek, but except in particular ſwells of the lake, cannot paſs the bar without being lightened.

ST. BERNARDO.

On the eaſt ſide of the Miſſiſippi, about five leagues below New-Orleans and at the head of the Engliſh bend is a ſettlement known by the name of the Poblacion de St. Bernardo or the Terre aux Bœufs, extending on both ſides of a creek or drain, whoſe head is contiguous to the Miſſiſippi, and

which flowing eaſtward, after a courſe of 18 leagues and dividing itſelf into two brances, falls into the ſea and lake Borgne. This ſettlement conſiſts of two pariſhes, almoſt all the inhabitants of which are Spaniards from the Canaries, who content themſelves with raiſing fowls, corn and garden ſtuff, for the market at New-Orleans. The lands cannot be cultivated to any great diſtance from the banks of the creek, on account of the vicinity of the marſh behind them. ſuſceptible of great improvement and of affording another communication to ſmall craft of from 8 to 10 feet draught, between the ſea and the Miſſiſippi.

SETTLEMENTS BELOW THE ENGLISH TURN.

At the diſtance of 16 leagues below New-Orleans, the ſettlements on both banks of the river are of but ſmall account. Between theſe and the fort of Plaquemines, the country is overflowed in the ſpring, and in many places is incapable of cultivation at any time, being a moraſs almoſt impaſſable by man or beaſt. This ſmall tongue of land extends conſiderably into the ſea, which is viſible on both ſides of the Miſſiſippi from a ſhip's maſt.

COUNTRY FROM PLAQUEMINES TO THE SEA, AND EFFECT OF THE HURRICANES.

From Plaquemines to the ſea is 12 or 13 leagues. The country is low, ſwampy, chiefly covered with reeds, having little or no timber and no ſettlement whatever. It may be neceſſary to mention here, that the whole lower part of the country from the Engliſh Turn downward is ſubject to overflowing in hurricanes, either by the recoiling of the river or reflux from the ſea on each ſide; and on more than one occaſion it has been covered from the depth of 2 to 10 feet, according to the deſcent of the river, whereby many lives were loſt, horſes and cattle ſwept away and a ſcene of deſtruction laid. The laſt calamity of this kind happened in 1794; but fortunately they are not frequent. In the preceding year the engineer who ſuperintended the erection of the fort of Plaquemines was drowned in his houſe near the fort, and the workmen and garriſon eſcaped only by taking refuge on an elevated ſpot in the fort, on which there were notwithſtanding, 2 or 3 feet of water. Theſe hurricanes have generally been felt in

the month of Auguſt. Their greateſt fury laſts about 12 hours. They commence in the ſouth eaſt, veer about to all points of the compaſs, are felt more ſeverely below and ſeldom extend more than a few leagues above New Orleans. In their whole courſe they are marked with ruin and deſolation. Until that of 1793, there had been none felt from the year 1780.

PASSES, OR MOUTHS OF THE MISSISIPPI.

About 8 leagues below Plaquemines, the Miſſiſippi divides itſelf into three channels, which are called the paſſes of the river, viz. the Eaſt, South and South Weſt paſſes. Their courſe is from 5 to 6 leagues to the ſea. The ſpace between is marſh with little or no timber on it; but from its ſituation, it may hereafter be rendered of importance. The Eaſt paſs which is on the left hand going down the river, is divided into two branches about two leagues below, viz. Paſs á la Loutre, and that known to mariners by the name of the Baliſe, at which there is a ſmall block-houſe and ſome huts of the pilots, who reſide only here. The firſt of theſe ſecondary channels contains at preſent but 8

feet water; the latter from 14 to 16 according to the feafons. The South paſs, which is directly in front of the Miſſiſippi, has always been conſidered as entirely choaked up, but has 10 feet water. The South Weſt paſs, which is on the right, is the longeſt and narroweſt of all the paſſes, and a few years ago had 18 feet water, and was that by which the large ſhips always entered and ſailed from the Miſſiſippi. It has now but 8 feet water, and will probably remain ſo for ſome time. In ſpeaking of the quantity of water in the paſſes it muſt be underſtood of what is on the bar of each paſs; for immediately after paſſing the bar, which is very narrow, there are from 5 to 7 fathoms at all ſeaſons.

COUNTRY EAST OF LAKE PONCHARTRAIN.

The country on the eaſt ſide of Lake Ponchartrain to Mobile and including the whole extent between the American line, the Miſſiſippi above New-Orleans, and the lakes (with the exception of a tract of about 30 miles on the Miſſiſippi, and as much ſquare contiguous to the line, and comprehending the waters of Thompſon's

Creek, Bayou Sara and the Amet) is a poor thin ſoil, overgrown with pine, and contains no good land whatever, unleſs on the banks of a few ſmall rivers, it would however afford ſupplies of pitch, tar, and pine lumber, and would feed large herds of cattle.

THE INHABITANTS AND THEIR ORIGIN.

THE inhabitants of Louiſiana are chiefly the deſcendants of the French and Canadians. There are a conſiderable number of Engliſh and Americans in New-Orleans. The two German coaſts are peopled by the deſcendants of ſettlers from Germany and a few French mixed with them. The three ſucceeding ſettlements up to Baton Rouge contain moſtly Acadians, baniſhed from Nova Scotia by the Engliſh, and their deſcendants. The government of Baton Rouge, eſpecially the Eaſt ſide, which includes all the country between the Iberville and the American line, is compoſed partly of Acadians, a very few French, and of a great majority of Americans. On the weſt ſide they are moſtly Acadians; at Pointe Coupee and Fauſſee Riviere they are French and Acadians. Of the population of the Atacapas

and Opelouſas, a conſiderable part is American. Natchitoches, on the Red River, contains but a few Americans, and the remainder of the inhabitants are French. But the former are more numerous in the other ſettlements on that river, viz. Avoyelles, Rapide, and Ouacheta. At Arkansa they are moſtly French; and at New-Madrid, Americans. At leaſt 2-5ths. if not [illegible] proportion of all the ſettlers on the [illegible] ſide of the Miſſiſippi, in the Illinois [illegible] are likewiſe ſuppoſed to be Americans. [illegible] below New-Orleans the population [illegible] other French, and the deſcendants of [illegible] chmen.

NEW-ORLEANS.

By recurring to the maps and examining the poſition of Louiſiana, it will appear that the lower [illegible] projects conſiderably into the ſea. It is [illegible] in all probability been formed by the [illegible] nt brought down by the current and [illegible] ited on the flat coaſt. There is therefore [illegible] the eaſt ſide but a very narrow ſli[illegible]ng the bank of the river, from the [illegible] the Iberville. The land is not gene[illegible] ſuſceptible of cultivation more than [illegible] e in depth from the river; the reſt is low and ſwampy to the

lakes and the ſea, but in general abounds with cypreſs timber, which is ſawed by mills, which are worked by artificial ſtreams from the Miſſiſippi, in the time of freſhets. They generally run five months in the year.

WHAT has been ſaid of the eaſt equally applies to the weſt ſide of the river. The ſoil and ſituation are nearly the ſame. After leaving the bank of the river there is an immenſe ſwamp, interſected by creeks and lakes, extending to the high lands of Atacapas, and occupying a ſpace of thirty or forty leagues.

THE city of New-Orleans, which is regularly laid out on the eaſt ſide of the Miſſiſippi, in lat. 30, N. and long. 90, W. extends nearly a mile along the river, from the gate of France on the ſouth, to that of Chapitoulas above, and a little more than 1-3d of a mile in breadth, from the river to the rampart; but it has an extenſive ſuburb on the upper ſide. The houſes in front of the town and for a ſquare or two backwards, are moſtly of brick, covered with ſlate or tile, and many of two ſtories. The remainder are of wood, covered with ſhingles. The ſtreets croſs each other at right angles, and are 32 French

feet wide. The ſquares between the interſections of the ſtreet have a front of 300 French feet. There is in the middle of the front of the city a *place d'armes*, facing which the church and town-houſe are built. There are from 12 to 1400 houſes in the city and ſuburbs. The population may be eſtimated at 10,000 including the ſeamen and garriſon. It was fortified in 1793, but the works were originally defective, could not have been defended, and are now in ruins. The powder magazine is on the oppoſite bank of the river.

The public buildings and other public property in New Orleans. are as follow:

Two very extenſive brick ſtores, from 160 to 180 feet in length, and about 30 in breadth. They are one ſtory high and covered with ſhingles.

A government houſe, ſtables and garden, occupying a front of about 220 feet on the river, in the middle of the town, and extending 336 feet back to the next ſtreet.

A military hoſpital.

An ill-built cuſtom-houſe of wood, almoſt in ruins in the upper part of the city, near the river.

An extenſive barrack in the lower part of the city, fronting on the river, and

calculated to lodge twelve or fourteen hundred men.

A large lot adjoining the king's ſtores, with a few ſheds in it. It ſerves as a park for artillery.

A priſon, town-houſe, market-houſe, aſſembly room, ſome ground rents, and the common about the town.

A public ſchool for the rudiments of the Spaniſh language.

A cathedral church unfiniſhed, and ſome houſes belonging to it.

A charitable hoſpital, with ſome houſes belonging to it, and a revenue of 1500 dollars annually endowed by an individual lately deceaſed.

THE canal de Carondelet has been already deſcribed.

NUMBER OF INHABITANTS.

ACCORDING to the annexed cenſus, No. 2, of Louiſiana, including Pen'acola and the Natchez, as made in 17[illegible]5, the whole number of inhabitants amounted to 32.062 of which 14 215 were free whites, 1.303 free people of color, and 16.544 ſlaves.

THE ſtatement, No. 3, from the lateſt documents, makes the whole number 42,932—the free whites, 21,244—the free

people of color, 1,768—and the ſlaves, 19,920.

These papers certainly exhibit a ſmaller number than the real population of the country. From an official document, made in July laſt, and received from Atacapas, ſince the ſtatement, No. 3, was formed, it appears that it contained 2,270 whites, 210 free people of color, 1,266 ſlaves, in all 3,746 ſouls, inſtead of 1,447, as therein ſtated. It is highly probable that the return for the neighbouring diſtrict of Opelouſas, is in the ſame proportion underrated.

A conjectural eſtimation made by a gentleman of great reſpectability and correct information, reſiding at Natchez, raiſes the number of whites in the iſland of New-Orleans, on the weſt ſide of the river, and ſome ſettlements on the eaſt ſide, to 50,150, and the number of blacks to 39,820.

It is at all times difficult to obtain the full cenſus of a country, and the impediments are increaſed in this from its ſcattered population. The actual enumeration may therefore fall ſhort of the true numbers.

MILITIA.

THERE is a militia in Louisiana. The following is the return of it, made to the Court of Spain, by the Baron of Carondelet.

	Militia.
From Balize to the city—volunteers of the Missisippi—4 companies of 100 men each —complete.	400
City—Battalion of the city, 5 companies,	500
Artillery company, with supernumeraries,	120
Carabineers, or privileged companies of horse, 2 companies of 70 each—incomplete,	100
Mulattoes, 2 companies—negroes, 1 do.	300
Mixed legion of the Missisippi, comprehending Galveztown, Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, Atacapas and Opelousas, viz.	
2 companies of grenadiers,	
8 do. of fusileers,	
4 do. of dragoons,	
2 do. lately added from Bayou Sara,	
16 companies of 100 men each,	1,600
Avoyelles, 1 company of infantry,	100
Oucheta, 1 do. of cavalry,	100
Natchitochez, 1 do. of infantry, and 1 of cavalry,	200
Arkansas, 1 do. of infantry and cavalry,	100
Illinois, 4 do. of cavalry, 4 do. of infantry: These are always above the compliment.	800

Provincial regiment of Germans and Acadians, from the 1ſt German coaſt to Iberville—10 companies, viz. 2 of grenadiers, 8 of fuſileers,	1,000
Mobile and the country eaſt of Lake Ponchartrain, 2 companies of horſe and foot, incomplete,	120
	5,440

THE ſame gentleman alluded to, page 28, makes the number of the militia to amount to 10.340 men within the ſame limits to which his eſtimate of the population applies. He diſtributes them in the ſeveral ſettlements, as follows:

1. The iſland of New-Orleans, with the oppoſite margin and the adjacent ſettlements,	5,000
2. The weſt margin from Manchac, including Pointe Coupee, and extending to the Red River,	800
3. Ancapas, along the coaſt, between the Delta of the Miſſiſippi and the river Sabine,	350
4. Opelouſas,	750
5. Red River, including Bayou Bœuf, Avoyelles, Rapide and Natchitoches,	1000
6. Ouachita,	300
7. Concord,	40
8. Arkanſas,	150
9. New Madrid and its vicinity,	350
10. Illinois and Miſſouri,	1000

11. The settlements on the east side of the Mississippi, from the American line to the Iberville, and some other settlements,	600
	10,340

It is to be observed, that none of these statements include the country beyond the River Sabine, nor even all those which lie eastwardly of it. Data are also wanting to give them.

FORTIFICATIONS.

St. Louis has a lieutenant colonel to command in it, and but few troops.—Baton Rouge is an ill constructed fort, and has about 50 men. In describing the canal of Carondelet, the small fort of St. Jean has been mentioned, as has the block-house at the Balise in its proper place. The fortifications of New Orleans, noticed before, consist of five ill-constructed redoubts, with a covered way, palisade and ditch. The whole is going fast to decay, and it is supposed they would be of but little service, in case of an attack. Though the powder magazine is on the opposite side of the river, there is no sufficient provision made for its removal to the city, in case of need.

The fort of Plaquemines, which is about twelve or thirteen leagues from the ſea, is an ill-conſtructed, irregular, brick work, on the eaſtern ſide of the Miſſiſippi, with a ditch in front of the river, and protected on the lower ſide by a deep creek, flowing from the river to the ſea. It is, however, imperfectly cloſed behind, and almoſt without defence there; too much reliance having been placed on the ſwampineſs of the ground, which hardens daily. It might be taken perhaps by eſcalade, without difficulty. It is in a degree ruinous. The principal front is meant to defend the approach from the ſea, and can oppoſe at moſt, but eight heavy guns. It is built at a turn in the river, where ſhips in general muſt anchor, as the wind which brings them up ſo far is contrary in the next reach, which they moſtly work through; and they would therefore be expoſed to the fire of the fort. On the oppoſite bank are the ruins of a ſmall cloſed redoubt, called Fort Bourbon, uſually garriſoned by a ſerjeant's command. Its fire was intended to flank that of the fort of Plaquemines, and prevent ſhipping and craft from aſcending or deſcending on that ſide. When a veſſel appears, a ſignal is made on

one side, and answered on the other. Should she attempt to pass, without sending a boat on shore, she would be immediately fired upon.

INDIANS.

The Indian nations within the limits of Louisiana are as far as known as follows, and consist of the number specified.

On the eastern bank of the Mississippi, about 25 leagues from Orleans, are the remains of the nation of Houmas or Red Men which do not exceed 60 persons. There are no other Indians settled on this side of the river, either in Louisiana or West Florida, though they are at times frequented by parties of wandering Choctaws.

On the west side of the Mississippi are the remains of the Tounicas, settled near and above Pointe Coupee on the river, consisting of 50 or 60 persons.

In the Atacapas.

On the lower parts of the Bayou Teche at about eleven or twelve leagues from the sea, are two villages of Chitamachas, consisting of about one hundred souls.

The Atacapas, properly so called, dispersed throughout the district, and chiefly

on the Bayou, or creek of Vermillion, about one hundred ſouls.

WANDERERS of the tribes of Bilexis and Choctaws, on Bayou Crocodile, which empties into the Teche, about fifty ſouls.

In the Opelouſas to the N. W. of Atacapas.

Two villages of Alibamas in the centre of the diſtrict near the church, conſiſting of one hundred perſons.

CONCHATES diſperſed through the country as far weſt as the river Sabinas and its neighbourhood, about three hundred and fifty perſons.

On the River Rouge.

AT Avoyelles, nineteen leagues from the Miſſiſippi, is a village of the Biloni nation, and another on the lake of the Avoyelles, the whole about ſixty ſouls.

AT the Rapide, twenty-ſix leagues from the Miſſiſippi, is a village of the Choctaws of one hundred ſouls, and another of Biloxes, about two leagues from it, of about one hundred more: About eight or nine leagues higher up the Red River is a village of about fifty ſouls. All theſe are occaſionally employed by the ſettlers in their neighbourhood as boatmen.

ABOUT eighty leagues above Natchitoches on the Red River is the nation of the

Cadoquies, called by abbreviation Cados; they can raise from three to four hundred warriors, are the friends of the whites, and are esteemed the bravest and most generous of all the nations in this vast country. They are rapidly decreasing, owing to intemperance and the numbers annually destroyed by the Osages and Choctaws.

THERE are, besides the foregoing, at least four to five hundred families of Choctaws, who are dispersed on the west side of the Mississippi, on the Ouchcta and Red Rivers, as far west as Natchitoches, and the whole nation would have emigrated across the Mississippi had it not been for the opposition of the Spaniards and the Indians on that side who had suffered by their aggressions.

On the River Arkansas. &c.

BETWEEN the Red River and the Arkansas there are but a few Indians, the remains of tribes almost extinct. On this last river is the nation of the lame name, consisting of about two hundred and sixty warriors. They are brave, yet peaceable and well disposed, and have always been attached to the French and espoused their cause in their wars with the Chickasaws, whom they have always resisted with success. They

live in three villages, the first is at eighteen leagues from the Missisippi on the Arkansas river, and the others are at three and six leagues from the first. A scarcity of game on the eastern side of the Missisippi has lately induced a number of the Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, &c. to frequent the neighbourhood of Arkansas, where game is still in abundance; they have contracted marriages with the Arkansas, and seem inclined to make a permanent settlement, and incorporate themselves with that nation. The number is unknown, but is considerable, and is every day increasing.

On the river St. Francis, in the neighbourhood of New-Madrid, Cape Girardeau, Reviere a la Pomme, and the environs, are settled a number of vagabonds, emigrants from the Delawares, Shawnese, Miamis, Chickasaws, Cherokees, Piorias, and supposed to consist in all of five hundred families. They are at times troublesome to the boats descending the river, and have even plundered some of them and committed a few murders. They are attached to liquor, seldom remain long in any place, many of them speak English,

all underſtand it, and there are ſome who even read and write it.

At St. Genevieve, in the ſettlement among the whites, are about thirty Piorias, Kaſkaſkias, and Illinois, who ſeldom hunt for fear of the other Indians; they are the remains of a nation which fifty years ago could bring into the field one thouſand two hundred warriors.

On the Miſſouri.

On the Miſſouri and its waters are many and numerous nations, the beſt known of which are—The Oſages, ſituated on the river of the ſame name on the right bank of the Miſſouri, at about eighty leagues from its confluence with it. They conſiſt of one thouſand warriors, who live in two ſettlements at no great diſtance from each other. They are of a gigantic ſtature and well proportioned, are enemies of the whites and of all other Indian nations, and commit depredations from the Illinois to the Arkanſas. The trade of this nation is ſaid to be under an excluſive grant. They are a cruel and ferocious race, and are hated and feared by all the other Indians. The confluence of the Oſage river with the Miſſouri is about eighty leagues from the Miſſiſippi.

Sixty leagues higher up the Miſſouri, and on the ſame bank, is the river Kanzas, and on it the nation of the ſame name, but at about ſeventy or eighty leagues from its mouth. It conſiſts of about two hundred and fifty warriors, who are as fierce and cruel as the Oſages, and often moleſt and ill-treat thoſe who go to trade among them.

Sixty leagues above the river Kanzas, and at about two hundred from the mouth of the Miſſouri, ſtill on the right bank, is the *Riviere Platte*, or Shallow River, remarkable for its quick ſands and bad navigation; and near its confluence with the Miſſouri dwells the nation of Octolactos, commonly called Otos, conſiſting of about two hundred warriors, among whom are twenty-five or thirty of the nation of Miſſouri, who took refuge among them about twenty-five years ſince.

Forty leagues up the *River Platte* you come to the nation of the Panis, compoſed of about ſeven hundred warriors, in four neighbouring villages. They hunt but little, and are ill-provided with fire-arms. They often make war on the Spaniards in the neighbourhood of Santa Fe, from which they are not far diſtant.

At three hundred leagues from the Miſſiſippi, and one hundred from the *River Platte*, on the ſame bank, are ſituated the villages of the Mahas. They conſiſted in 1799 of five hundred warriors, but are ſaid to have been almoſt cut off laſt year by the ſmall-pox.

At fifty leagues above the Mahas, and on the left bank of the Miſſouri, dwell the Poneas, to the number of two hundred and fifty warriors, poſſeſſing in common with the Mahas their language, ſociety and vices. Their trade has never been of much value, and thoſe engaged in it are expoſed to pillage and ill-treatment.

At the diſtance of 450 leagues from the Miſſiſippi, and on the right bank of the Miſſouri, dwell the Aricaras, to the number of 700 warriors, and 60 leagues above, the Mandane nation, conſiſting of about 700 warriors likewiſe. Theſe two laſt nations are well diſpoſed to the whites, but have been the victims of the Sioux, or Nandoweſſies, who being themſelves well provided with fire-arms, have taken advantage of the defenceleſs ſituation of the others, and have on all occaſions murdered them without mercy.

No discoveries on the Missouri, beyond the Mandane nation, have been accurately detailed, though the traders have been informed, that many large, navigable rivers discharge their waters into it, far above it, and that there are many numerous nations settled upon them.

The Sioux, or Mandoweffies, who frequent the country between the north bank of the Missouri and Mississippi, are a great impediment to trade and navigation. They endeavour to prevent all communication with the nations dwelling high up the Missouri, to deprive them of ammunition and arms, and thus keep them subservient to themselves. In the winter they are chiefly on the banks of the Missouri, and massacre all who fall into their hands.

There are a number of nations at a distance from the banks of the Missouri, to the north and south, concerning whom but little information has been received. Returning to the Mississippi, and ascending it from the Missouri, about 75 leagues above the mouth of the latter, the River Moingona or Riviere de Moine enters the Mississippi on the west side, and on it are situated the Ayons, a nation originally from the Missouri, speaking the language of the

Otatachas: It consisted of 200 warriors, before the small pox lately raged among them.

The Sacs and Renards dwell on the Missisippi, about 300 leagues above St. Louis, and frequently trade with it—they live together, and consisted of 500 warriors. Their chief trade is with Michilimakkinak, and they have always been peaceable and friendly.

The other nations on the Missisippi higher up, are but little known to us. The nations of the Missouri, though cruel, treacherous, and insolent, may doubtless be kept in order by the United States, if proper regulations are adopted with respect to them.

It is said that no treaties have been entered into by Spain with the Indian nations westward of the Missisippi, and that its treatries with the Creeks, Choctaws, &c. are in effect superceded by our treaty with that power of the 27th of October. 1795.

OF LANDS AND TITLES.

The lands are held in some instances by grants from the Crown, but mostly from the Colonial government. Perhaps not one quarter part of the lands granted in

Louiſiana are held by complete titles; and of the remainder a conſiderable part depends upon a written permiſſion of the officer laſt mentioned. This practice has always been countenanced by the Spaniſh government, in order that poor men, when they found themſelves a little at eaſe, might at their own conveniency apply for and obtain complete titles. In the mean time ſuch imperfect rights were ſuffered by the government to deſcend by inheritance, and even to be transferred by private contract. When requiſite, they have been ſeized by judicial authority, and ſold for the payment of debts.

Until within a few years the governor of Upper Louiſiana was authoriſed to make ſurveys of any extent. In the exerciſe of this diſcretionary power, ſome abuſes were committed; a few ſmall monopolies were created. About three years ago, he was reſtricted in this branch of his duty; ſince which he has been only authoriſed to make ſurveys to emigrants in the following manner: Two hundred acres for each man and wife, fifty acres for each child, and twenty acres for each ſlave. Hence the quantity of land allowed to ſettlers depended on the number in each family;

and for this quantity of land, they paid no more than the expenſe of ſurvey.—Theſe ſurveys were neceſſary to entitle the ſettlers to grants; and the governor, and after him the Intendant at New-Orleans, was alone authoriſed to execute grants on the receipt of the ſurveys from the ſettlers. The adminiſtration of the land office is at preſent under the care of the Intendant of the province.

THERE are no feudal rights nor nobleſſe.

IT is impoſſible to aſcertain the quantity of lands granted, without calling on the claimants to exhibit their titles; the regiſtry being incomplete, and the maps made by the different ſurveyors general having been burnt in the fires at New-Orleans of 1788 and 1794. No eſtimate has been obtained.

ALL the lands on both ſides of the Miſſiſippi, from the diſtance of ſixteen leagues below New-Orleans to Baton Rouge, are granted to the depth of forty acres, or near half a league, which is the uſual depth of all grants. Some have double and triple grants; that is to ſay, they have twice or thrice forty acres in depth; and others have grants extending from the Miſſiſippi to the ſea or the lakes behind

them. In other parts of the country the people, being generally ſettled on the banks of creeks or rivers, have a front of from ſix to forty acres, and the grant almoſt invariably expreſſes a depth of forty acres. All the lands ungranted in the iſland of New-Orleans, or on the oppoſite bank of the Miſſiſippi, are ſunken, inundated, and at preſent unfit for cultivation; but may, in part, be reclaimed at a future day by efforts of the rich and enterprizing.

CULTIVATION OF SUGAR.

The ſugar cane may be cultivated between the river Iberville and the city, on both ſides of the river, and as far back as the ſwamps. Below the city, however, the lands decline ſo rapidly that beyond fifteen miles the ſoil is not well adapted to it. Above the Iberville, the cane would be affected by the cold, and its produce would therefore be uncertain.—Within theſe limits the beſt planters admit that one quarter of the cultivated lands of any conſiderable plantation may be planted in cane, one quarter left in paſture, and the remaining half employed for proviſions, &c. and a reſerve for a change of crops. One Pariſian Arpent of one

hundred and eighty feet ſquare, may be expected to produce on an average twelve hundred weight of ſugar, and fifty gallons of rum.

From the above data, admitting that both ſides of the river are planted for ninety miles in extent and about three fourths of a mile in depth, it will reſult that the annual product may amount in round numbers to twenty-five thouſand hogſheads of ſugar, with twelve thouſand puncheons of rum. Enterprizing young planters ſay, that one third, or even one half of the arable land, might be planted in cane. It may alſo be remarked that a regular ſupply of proviſions from above, at a moderate price, would enable the planter to give his attention to a greater body of land cultivated with cane. The whole of theſe lands, as may be ſuppoſed, are granted; but in the Atacapas country, there is undoubtedly a portion, parallel to the ſea-coaſt, fit for the culture of the ſugar-cane. There vacant lands are to be found, but the proportion is at preſent unknown.

In the above remarks, the lands at Terre aux Bœuf, on the Fourche, Bayou St. Jean, and other inlets of the Miſſiſippi, ſouth of the latitude ſuppoſed to divide

those which are fit, from those which are unfit, for the cultivation of the cane, have been entirely kept out of view. Including these, and taking one third instead of one fourth of the lands fit for sugar, the produce of the whole would be fifty thousand, instead of twenty five thousand, hogsheads of sugar.

The following quantities of sugar, brown, clayed and refined, have been imported into the United States from Louisiana and the Floridas, viz.

In 1799,	773,542 *lbs.*
1800,	1,500,805
1801,	967,619
1802,	1,576,933

OF THE LAWS.

When the country was first ceded to Spain, she preserved many of the French regulations, but by almost imperceptible degrees they have disappeared, and at present the province is governed entirely by laws of Spain and the ordinances formed expresly for the colony.

COURTS OF JUSTICE.

The governor's court has a civil and military jurisdiction throughout the prov-

nce. That of the lieutenant governor has he ſame extent in civil caſes only.

THERE are two Alcaldes, whoſe juriſdiction, civil and criminal, extends through he city of New-Orleans and five leagues round it, where the parties have no *fuero nilitar*, or military privilege; thoſe who have can transfer their cauſes to the governor.

THE tribunal of the Intendant has cognizance of admiralty and fiſcal caſes, and uch ſuits as are brought for the recovery of money in the king's name or againſt im.

THE tribunal of the Alcalde Provinial has cognizance of criminal cauſes, here offences are committed in the coun-ry, or when the criminal takes refuge there, nd in other ſpecified caſes.

THE eccleſiaſtical tribunal has juriſdicon in all matters reſpecting the church.

THE governor, lieutenant governor, Alaldes, Indendant, Provincial Alcalde, and he Proviſor in eccleſiaſtical cauſes, are eſpectively ſole judges. All ſentences, ffecting the life of the culprit, except hoſe of the Alcalde Provincial, muſt be atified by the ſuperior tribunal, or cap-in general, according to the nature of

the caſe, before they are carried into execution. The governor has not the power of pardoning criminals. An auditor and an aſſeſſor, who are doctors of law, are appointed to give counſel to thoſe judges; but for ſome time paſt there has been no aſſeſſor. If the judges do not conſult thoſe officers, or do not follow their opinions they make themſelves reſponſible for their deciſions.

The commandants of diſtricts have alſo a ſpecies of judicial power. They hear and determine all pecuniary cauſes not exceeding the value of one hundred dollars. When the ſuit is for a larger ſum, they commence the proceſs, collect the proofs, and remit the whole to the governor, to be decided by the proper tribunal. They can inflict no corporal puniſhment except upon ſlaves; but they have the power of arreſting and impriſoning when they think it neceſſary; advice of which and their reaſons muſt be tranſmitted to the governor.

Small ſuits are determined in a ſummary way by hearing both parties *viva voce;* but in ſuits of great magnitude, the proceedings are carried on by petition and reply, replication and rejoinder, reiterated

until the auditor thinks they have nothing new to say. Then all the proofs either party chooſes to adduce are taken before the keeper of the records of the court, who is always a notary public.

THE parties have now an opportunity of making their remarks upon the evidence by way of petition, and bringing forward oppoſing proofs. When the auditor conſiders the cauſe as mature, he iſſues his decree, which receives its binding force from the governor's ſignature, where the cauſe depends before him.

THERE is an appeal to Havanna, if applied for within five days after the date of the decree, in cauſes above a certain value. An ulterior appeal lies to the audience which formerly ſat at St. Domingo, but which is now removed to ſome part of Cuba, and from thence to the council of the Indies in Spain.

SUITS are of various durations. In pecuniary matters the laws encourage ſummary proceedings. An execution may be had on a bond in four days, and in the ſame ſpace on a note of hand, after the party acknowledges it, or after his ſignature is proved. Moveable property is ſold after giving nine days warning, provided

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it be three times publicly cried in that interval. Landed property muſt be likewiſe cried three times, with an interval of three days between each, and it may then be ſold. All property taken in execution muſt be appraiſed, and ſold for at leaſt half of the appraiſement. In pecuniary matters the governors decide verbally without appeal, when the ſum does not exceed one hundred dollars. The Alcaldes have the ſame privilege, when the amount is not above twenty dollars.

In addition to theſe courts, four years ago there were eſtabliſhed four Alcaldes de barrio, or petty magiſtrates, one for each of the four quarters of the city, with a view to improve its police. They hear and decide all demands not exceeding ten dollars, exerciſe the power of committing to priſon, and in caſe of robbery, riot or aſſaſſination, they can, by calling on a notary, take cognizance of the affair; but when this is done, they are bound to remit the proceedings to ſome of the other judges, and in all caſes whatever, to give them information when they have committed any perſon to priſon.

Most of the ſuits are on perſonal contracts, rights to dower, inheritances, and

titles to land. Thoſe ariſing from perſonal quarrels are generally decided in a ſummary way. The inhabitants are ſaid not to be litigious.

LAWYERS, & COSTS OF THEIR COURTS AND THEIR OFFICERS.

THE number of lawyers is ſmall, not exceeding three or four attorneys. Their fees are ſmall. Suits are carried on in writings called *eſcritos*, which may be drawn up by the parties themſelves, if they pleaſe, but they muſt be preſented by the *eſcribano* or notary, who is the keeper of the records of the court.

THE fees of the judges are twenty-five cents for every half ſignature or flouriſh (which is uſually affixed on common occaſions) fifty cents for every whole ſignature, and two dollars and three fourths for every attendance, as at a ſale, or the taking of evidence.

THE fees of the Abogado, or perſon conſulted by the judges on law points, are twelve and a half cents for every leaf of which the proceſs conſiſts, and four dollars for every point of law cited. Thoſe of the attorney, when employed, are ſixty two and a half cents for a ſimple petition

or eſcrito, but if it ſhould be neceſſary to read a proceſs in order to form his petition, and it ſhould require much time and labour, he is compenſated in proportion, beſides twelve and a half cents per leaf for peruſing the papers. For attendance on any buſineſs he is allowed one dollar and fifty cents for the *aſſiſtance* of two and a half hours. The notary has fifty cents for each decree or order of the judge, twenty-five cents for a notification in his office, and fifty cents for one out of it, but within the city; one dollar and ſeven eighths for every attendance of two and a half hours on buſineſs, and twenty-five cents additional for every leaf of paper written by him.

A COUNSELLOR or two have ſometimes reſided at New-Orleans, but being generally found obnoxious to the officers of the government, they have not continued there. The counſellor values his own ſervices, and in general exacts large ſums. The attorney generally receives from the party who employs him more than is allowed by law.

CRIMES, CRIMINAL JURISPRUDENCE, & PUNISHMENTS.

In caſes of petty crimes the cognizance of the proper courts may be ſaid to be final and without appeal; and moſt commonly ſuch cauſes are decided in a ſummary way. With reſpect to crimes of deeper dye more ſolemnity is uſed. A perſon ſkilled in the law is always nominated by the court to defend the accuſed. The trial is not public; but examinations and depoſitions in writing are taken privately by the auditor at any time moſt convenient to himſelf, at which nevertheleſs the council of the accuſed is admitted to be preſent. He has alſo every kind of privilege granted to him in making his defence. Such ſuits are generally very tedious and expenſive when he is wealthy. The condemned is entitled to an appeal as in civil caſes, provided he gives ſecurity for the payment of future coſts. There appears, however, to be a virtual appeal in every capital condemnation, becauſe a ſtay of execution takes place until the confirmation of the ſentence returns from St. Jago de Cuba, where there is a grand tribunal eſtabliſhed, conſiſting of five judges,

before whom counſellors plead as in our courts.

CRIMES of great atrocity are very rare. Murder by ſtabbing ſeems to be confined to the Spaniſh ſoldiers and ſailors. The terror of the magiſtrate's power reſtrains aſſaults, batteries, riots, &c.

PUNISHMENTS are generally mild. They moſtly conſiſt of impriſonment and payment of coſts, ſometimes the ſtocks. White men, not military, are rarely, perhaps never, degraded by whipping; and in no caſe do any fines go into the public treaſury. Murder, arſon, and aggravated robbery of the king's treaſury or effects, are puniſhed with death. Robbery of private perſons to any amount is never puniſhed with death, but by reſtitution, impriſonment, and ſometimes enormous coſts. Crimes againſt the king's revenue, ſuch as contraband trade, are puniſhed with hard labour for life, or a term of years, on board the gallies, in the mines, or on the public works.

LEARNING.

THERE are no colleges, and but one public ſchool, which is at New-Orleans. The maſters of this are paid by the king. They teach the Spaniſh language only.

There are a few private ſchools for children. Not more than half of the inhabitants are ſuppoſed to be able to read and write, of whom not more than two hundred, perhaps, are able to do it well. In general the learning of the inhabitants does not extend beyond thoſe two arts; though they ſeem to be endowed with a good natural genius, and an uncommon facility of learning whatever they undertake.

THE CHURCH.

The clergy conſiſts of a biſhop, who does not reſide in the province, and whoſe ſalary of four thouſand dollars is charged on the revenue of certain biſhopricks in Mexico and Cuba; two canons, having each a ſalary of ſix hundred dollars; and twenty-five curates, five for the city of New-Orleans, and twenty for as many country pariſhes, who receive each from three hundred and ſixty to four hundred and eighty dollars a year. Thoſe ſalaries, except that of the biſhop, together with an allowance for ſacritans and chapel expenſes, are paid by the treaſury at New-Orleans, and amount annually to thirteen thouſand dollars.

THERE is alſo at that place a convent of Urſulines, to which is attached about a thouſand acres of land, rented out in three plantations. The nuns are now in number not more than ten or twelve, and are all French. There were formerly about the ſame number of Spaniſh ladies belonging to the order; but they retired to Havanna during the period when it was expected that the province would be transferred to France. The remaining nuns receive young ladies as boarders, and inſtruct them in reading, writing, and needle-work.

THEY have always acted with great propriety and are generally reſpected and beloved throughout the province. With the aſſiſtance of an annual allowance of ſix hundred dollars from the treaſury, they always ſupport and educate twelve female orphans.

OF THE OFFICERS OF GOVERNMENT.

THE officers who are merely judicial have been already mentioned, and therefore ſome of them will be altogether omitted in this place. The executive officers appointed by the governor, for each diviſion of the province, and called Commandants, are generally taken from the army, or the militia. When the ſettlement is ſmall,

some respectable character is appointed to a civil command, and the militia officer has the direction of the military matters.—Where there is a garrison, the commandant is sub delegate of the intendant, and draws upon him for all expenses incurred. In that case he has the charge of all matters relating to the revenue, within his district.

The duty of commandants is to superintend the police, preserve the peace of the district, examine the passports of travellers, and to suffer no strangers to settle within the limits of their command, without regular leave obtained from government. They are to prevent smuggling, to certify that all lands petitioned for by the inhabitants, are vacant before they are granted, and when required put the owner in possession. They are besides notaries public, and in their offices it is necessary to register all sales of lands and slaves, and even to make the contracts for those purposes before them. They act as sheriffs, levy executions on property, attend and certify the sale, and collect the proceeds. They also take inventories of the property of intestates. By an ordinance of Baron Carondelet, Syndies are established every three leagues, who are subordinate to the commandant,

decide small causes, and have the police of roads, levies, travellers and negroes.

The officers of the general government are the following: Beside his judicial powers, the Governor is chief of the army and militia, and the head of the civil government. He is also president of the Cabildo, or Provincial council. He appoints and removes at pleasure the commandants of districts. He appoints the officers of the militia, who are nevertheless commissioned by the king, and he recommends military officers for preferment. He is superintendant of Indian affairs. He promulgates ordinances for the good government and improvement of the province; but he has no power to assess taxes upon the inhabitants without their consent. Until the year 1798, he possessed the sole power of granting lands; but it then passed into the hands of the intendant.

The Cabildo is an hereditary council of twelve chosen originally from the most wealthy and respectable families. The governor presides over their meetings. Their office is very honourable, but it is acquired by purchase. They have a right to represent, and even to remonstrate to the governor, in respect to the interior government

of the province. The police of the city is under their controul and direction. In it they regulate the admiſſion of phyſicians and ſurgeons to practice. Two members of the Cabildo ſerve by turn monthly, and take upon themſelves the immediate ſuperintendance of markets, bakers, ſtreets, bridges, and the general police of the city. This council diſtributes among its members ſeveral important offices, ſuch as Alguazil Mayor, or High Sheriff, Alcalde Provincial, Procureur General, &c. The laſt mentioned is a very important charge.—The perſon who holds it is not merely the king's attorney, but an officer peculiar to the civil law. He does not always proſecute; but after conviction he indicates the puniſhment annexed by law to the crime, and which may be, and is mitigated by the court. Like the chancellor, in the Engliſh ſyſtem, he is the curator and the protector of orphans, &c. and finally, he is the expounder of the privileges belonging to the town, province or colony, and the accuſer of every public officer that infringes them. The Cabildo is alſo veſted with a ſpecies of judicial authority.

The Intendant is chief of the departments of finance and commerce, and exer-

ciſes the judicial powers already mentioned. He is entirely independent of the governor, and no public monies can be iſſued without his expreſs order. The land office is under his direction.

The Contador, Treaſurer and Interventor, are officers ſubordinate to the Intendant. The firſt has four clerks under him, and keeps all accounts and documents reſpecting the receipt and expenditure of the revenue, and is therefore a check upon the Intendant. The treaſurer is properly no more than a caſhier, and is allowed one clerk. The Interventer ſuperintends all public purchaſes and bargains. The Adminiſtrator is alſo ſubordinate to the Intendant, and, with a number of inferior officers, manages every thing reſpecting the cuſtom-houſe. Every clerk in theſe offices receives his commiſſion from the king.

The Auditor is the king's counſel. who is to furniſh the governor with legal advice in all caſes of judicial proceedings, whether civil or military.

The Aſſeſſor's functions are ſimilar to thoſe of the Auditor, and are properly applicable to the Intendant's department.

BOTH of the officers laſt mentioned are alſo the counſellors of ſome of the other tribunals, as before intimated.

A Secretary of the government, and another of the intendency.

A Surveyor-General.

A Harbour Maſter.

A Store-Keeper, who takes charge of all public moveable property.

AN Interpreter of the French and Spaniſh languages, and a number of other inferior officers.

ALL appointments in the province with a ſalary of more than thirty dollars per month, are made by the king, and moſt of thoſe with a lower ſalary, by the governor or intendant, as belongs to their reſpective departments. There are no officers choſen by the people.

THE ſalaries and perquiſites of the principal officers are as follows:

Governor, annually,	6,000 p. ſalary,	2,000 p. requiſites.
Intendant,	4,000	none
Auditor,	2,000	2,000
Contador,	2,000	none
Aſſeſſor,	1,000	1,000
Treaſurer,	1,200	none
Adminiſtrator,	1,200	none
Secret. of government,	600	2,000

THE commandants of diſtricts receive each 100 dollars from the king annually,

unleſs they are poſſeſſed of a military employment or penſion.

TAXES AND DUTIES.

INSTEAD of paying local taxes, each inhabitant is bound to make and repair roads, bridges, and embankments, through his own land.

A duty of ſix per cent. is payable at the cuſtom-houſe, on the transfer of ſhipping. It is aſcertained upon the ſum, the buyer and ſeller declare to be the real conſideration. As no oath is required from either, they ſeldom report more than half the price.

THE following taxes are alſo payable in the Province:

Two per cent. on legacies and inheritances, coming from collaterals and exceeding 2.000 dollars.

FOUR per cent. on legacies, given to perſons who are not relatives of the teſtator.

A tax on civil employment, the ſalaries of which exceed 300 dollars annually, called *media annata*, amounting to half of the firſt year's ſalary. By certain officers, it is to be paid in two annual inſtalments, and by others in four. The firſt perſon appointed to a newly created office pays noth-

ing, but the tax is levied on all who succeed him.

SEVEN dollars is deducted from the sum of 20 paid as pilotage by every veſſel entering or leaving the Miſſiſippi; but the treaſury provides the boats, and pays the ſalary of the pilots and ſailors employed at the Balize. The remainder of the 20 dollars is thus diſtributed:—To the head pilot 4—to the pilot who is in the veſſel 4—and 5 to the crew of the row-boat, that goes out to put the pilot on board, or take him aſhore.

A tax of 40 dollrrs per annum for licences to ſell liquors.

A tax on certain places when ſold, ſuch as thoſe of Regidor, Notary, Attorney, &c.

BUT the principal tax is that of 6 per cent. levied on all imports and exports, according to a low Tariff. The net proceeds of which are about 120,000 dollars, whilſt all the other taxes are ſaid not to yield more than 5 or 6 thouſand dollars annually.

EXPENSES AND DEBT.

THE expenſes of the preſent government, comprehending the pay and ſupport of the regiment of Louiſiana, part of a battalion of the regiment of Mexico, a company of

dragoons, and one of artillery, which form the garrison of the country, including Mobile; the repairs of public buildings and fortifications; the maintainance of a few gallies to convey troops and stores throughout the province; Indian presents, and salaries of officers, clergy, and persons employed for public purposes; amounts to about 650,000 dollars. A sum in specie, which does not generally exceed 400,000 dollars, is annually sent from Vera Cruz; but this, together with the amount of duties and taxes collected in the province, leaves usually a deficiency of one hundred or one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, for which certificates are issued to the persons who may have furnished supplies, or to officers and workmen for their salaries.—Hence a debt has accumulated, which, it is said, amounts at present to about 450,000 dollars. It bears no interest, and is now depreciated 30 per cent. The latter circumstance has taken place, not from want of confidence in the eventual payment of the certificates; but from the uncertainty of the time when, and the want and general value of specie. The whole of this debt is said to be due to the inhabitants, and to American residents. It would have

been long since paid off, but for a diversion of the funds, destined for that purpose, to different and external objects.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

THE productions of Louisiana are—sugar, cotton, indigo, rice, furs and peltry, lumber, tar, pitch, lead, flour, horses and cattle. Population alone is wanting to multiply them to an astonishing degree. The soil is fertile, the climate salubrious, and the means of communication between most parts of the province certain, and by water.

THE following has been received as a sketch of the present exports of Louisiana, viz.

	Dollars.	
20,000 bales of cotton, of 3 cwt. each, at 20 cents per lb.	1,344,000	increasing.
4,500 casks of sugar, 10 cwt. each, at 6 cts. per lb.	302,400	ditto.
800 do. molasses, 100 gallons each,	32,000	ditto.
Indigo,	100,000	*diminishing rapidly.*
Peltry,	200,000	
Lumber,	80,000	
Lead, corn, horses and cattle uncertain,		
All other articles, suppose	100,000	
	2,158,400	

ACCORDING to official returns in the Treasury of the United States, there were imported into our territory from Louisiana and the Floridas, merchandize in the following amounts, in the several years prefixed:

	Dollars.
In 1799 to the value of	507,132
1800	904,322
1801	956,635
1802	1,006,214

ACCORDING to the same authority, which makes the total of the exports to amount to 2,153,000 dollars, the imports in merchandize, plantation-utensils, slaves, &c. amount to two and an half millions, the difference being made up by the money introduced by the government, to pay the expenses of governing and protecting the colony.

ACCORDING to the returns in the Treasury of the United States, exports have been made to Louisiana and the Floridas, to the following amount in the years prefixed:

In 1799 to the value of

3,056,268 in foreign articles.
447,824 in domestic do.

Dollars 3,504,092

In 1800	1,795,127	in foreign articles.
	240,662	in domeſtic do.
Dollars	2,035,789	
In 1801	1,770,794	in foreign articles.
	137,204	in domeſtic do.
Dollars	1,907,998	
In 1802	1,054,600	in foreign articles.
	170,110	in domeſtic do.
Dollars	1,224,710	

It is to be obſerved, that if the total of the imports and exports into and from theſe provinces (of which the two Floridas are but a very unimportant part with reſpect to both) be as above ſuppoſed, viz.

Imports,	2,500,000 Dollars.
Exports,	2,158,000
Making together,	4,658,000

The duty of ſix per cent. ought alone to produce the groſs ſum of two hundred and ſeventy-nine thouſand four hundred and eighty dollars; and that the difference between that ſum and its actual net produce, ariſes partly from the imperfect tariff, by which the value of merchandize is aſcer-

tained, but principally from the ſmuggling, which is openly countenanced by moſt of the revenue officers.

MANUFACTURES.

There are but few domeſtic manufactures. The Acadians manufacture a little cotton into quilts and cottonades; and in the remote parts of the province the poorer planters ſpin and weave ſome negro cloths of cotton and wool mixed. There is one machine for ſpinning cotton in the pariſh of Iberville, and another in the Opelouſas; but they do little or nothing. In the city, beſides the trades abſolutely neceſſary, there is a conſiderable manufacture of cordage, and ſome ſmall ones of ſhot and hair powder. There are likewiſe in, and within a few leagues of the town, twelve diſtilleries for making taffia, which are ſaid to diſtil annually a very conſiderable quantity; and one ſugar refinery, ſaid to make about 200,000 lbs. of loaf ſugar.

NAVIGATION EMPLOYED IN THE TRADE OF THE PROVINCE.

In the year 1802, there entered the Miſſiſippi two hundred and ſixty-eight veſſels of all deſcriptions, eighteen of which

were public armed veſſels, and the remainder merchantmen, as follows, viz.

	American.	*Spaniſh.*	*French.*
Ships,	48	14	-
Brigs,	63	17	1
Polacres,	-	4	-
Schooners,	50	61	-
Sloops,	9	1	-
Total,	170	97	1

Of the number of American veſſels, twenty-three ſhips, twenty-five brigs, nineteen ſchooners, and five ſloops, came in ballaſt; the remainder were wholly or in part laden.

Five Spaniſh ſhips and ſeven ſchooners came in ballaſt. The united tonnage of all the ſhipping that entered the river, excluſive of the public armed veſſels was 33,725 regiſter tons.

In the ſame year, there ſailed from the Miſſiſippi two hundred and ſixty five ſail, viz.

American.		*in ballaſt.*	*Tons.*
Ships,	40	1	8,972
Brigs,	58		7,546
Sch'rs,	52		4,346
Sloops,	8		519
	158		21,383

Spaniſh.		*in ballaſt.*	*Tons.*
Ships,	18		3,714
Brigs,	22	1	1,944
Sch'rs,	58		3,747
Sloops,	3	1	108
Polacres,	3	1	240
	104		9,753

French.		*Tons.*
Sch'rs,	3	105

Total.		*Tons.*
Americans,	158	21,383
Spaniſh,	104	9,753
French,	3	105
Grand Total,	265 *Sail.*	31,241 *Tons.*

THE tonnage of the veſſels which went away in ballaſt, and that of the public armed ſhips, are not included in the foregoing account; theſe latter carried away maſts, yards, ſpars, pitch, tar, &c. at leaſt 1,000 tons.

IN the firſt ſix months of the preſent year, there entered the Miſſiſippi 173 ſail, of all nations, four of which were public armed veſſels, viz. two French and two Spaniſh, whoſe tonnage is not enumerated.

	Amr.	*Tons.*	*Spaniſh.*	*Tons.*	*French.*	*Tons.*
Ships,	23	5,396	14	3,080	5	1,002
Brigs,	44	5,701	20	2,173	8	878
Polacres,	-	-	3	240	2	436
Sch'rs,	22	1,899	18	1,187	7	488
Sloops,	4	278	3	197	-	-
	93	13,274	58	6,877	22	2,804

Total of Ships.		*Total of Tons.*	
American,	93	13,274	
Spaniſh,	58	6,877	
French,	22	2,804	
	173	22,955	Tons.

In the ſame ſix months there ſailed from the Miſſiſippi one hundred and fifty-ſix veſſels, viz.

	American.	*Spaniſh.*	*French.*
Ships,	21	18	2
Brigs,	28	31	1
Polacres,	-	4	-
Schooners,	17	26	5
Sloops,	2	1	-
	68	80	8

COASTING TRADE.

There is a conſiderable coaſting trade from Penſacola, Mobile, and the creeks and rivers falling into, and in the neighbourhood of lake Pontchartrain, from

whence New-Orleans is principally supplied with ship timber, charcoal, lime, pitch and tar, and partly with cattle, and the places before named are supplied with articles of foreign growth and produce in the same way from New-Orleans. The vessels employed are sloops and schooners, some of which are but half decked, from eight to fifty tons; five hundred of which, including their repeated voyages, and 13 gallies and gun-boats, entered the Bayou St. Jean last year. There is likewise a small coasting trade between the Atacapas and Opelousas, and New-Orleans, by way of the Balize, which would much increase if there was any encouragement given by government to clear away a few obstructions, chiefly caused by fallen timber, in the small rivers and creeks leading to them.

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